

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5747
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0387

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR GINN

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LU
SUBJECT: THORN'S VIEWS ON U. S. - LUXEMBOURG RELATIONS IN THE
AFTERMATH OF THE LONDON SUMMIT

1. DURING A SERIES OF FAREWELL RECEPTIONS AND DINNERS,
AND PARTICULARLY DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME
MINISTER THORN ON MAY 18, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED TO ME
IN THE WARMEST POSSIBLE TERMS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE
FRANK AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGE HE HAD WITH PRESIDENT CARTER
IN LONDON. HE WAS EXTREMELY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S
KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN ISSUES, UNDERSTANDING OF EUROPEAN
PROBLEMS AND VISION OF THE ROLE THAT A STRONG UNITED
EUROPE CAN PLAY ON THE WORLD SCENE, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
AND OTHER FORMER COLONIAL AREAS.

2. THORN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT HE LEFT LONDON REASSURED
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENTS TO EUROPEAN UNITY,
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TO WESTERN DEFENSE AND TO A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS
BETWEEN THE EEC AND THE UNITED STATES IF BOTH PROFOUND
AND REALISTIC. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S
GRASP OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL,
GREECE AND TURKEY AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON EUROPE AND
THE UNITED STATES. ABOVE ALL, AND FROM AND ADMITTEDLY
PAROCHIAL POINT OF VIEW, THORN SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH

PRESIDENT CARTER'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE SMALLER EEC COUNTRIES.

3. IN OUR FINAL MEETING ON MAY 18, THIS THOUGHT LED THE PRIME MINISTER TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES IF HE AND PRESIDENT CARTER CAN BUILD A CONFIDENT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP ON THE BASIS OF THEIR EXCELLENT BEGINNINGS IN LONDON. HE SAID HIS VANTAGE POINT IN THE HEART OF WESTERN EUROPE AND HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE EEC STATES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND GERMANY, GIVE HIM A PERSPECTIVE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME MAY BE OF REAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SMALL COUNTRY WITHOUT A FINGER IN EVERY PIE, HE ALSO FEELS THAT HE BRINGS TO HIS OBSERVATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SCENE, AND INDEED THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, A CERTAIN DISPASSIONATE OBJECTIVITY THAT IS ALSO NOT WITHOUT INTEREST. WHAT THORN SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING WAS NOT SO MUCH A SPECIAL OR PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER OR SECRETARY VANCE, BUT RATHER THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FROM TIME TO TIME TO EXCHANGE VIEWS IN A SPIRIT OF CANDOR, OBJECTIVITY AND FRIENDSHIP.

5. ALONG THESE LINES, PRIME MINISTER THORN NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE OPENING OF THE UNGA, AND WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO FLY DOWN TO WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND/OR WORKING SESSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.
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(HE WILL BE IN THE U. S. FROM SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 5.)

6. COMMENT: THORN MADE THE POINTS ABOVE WITHOUT FALSE MODESTY BUT ALSO WITHOUT ANY EFFORT TO EXAGGERATE HIS OWN IMPORTANCE OR WHAT HE SEES AS HIS POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION. IN A NUMBER OF MESSAGES DURING MAY STAY HERE, I HAVE EMPHASIZED MY SINCERE BELIEF THAT DEVELOPING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THORN WOULD PAY HANDSOME DIVIDENDS FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. WITHOUT REITERATING IN DETAIL MY REASONS FOR THAT CONTENTION, I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT ALL MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER DURING MY TENURE HERE STRENGTHENS MY BELIEF THAT HE IS A LEADER OF GREAT INTELLIGENCE, PERSPICACITY, AND STATEMANSHIP, BUT ABOVE ALL A SINCERE FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES WHO CAN BE COUNTED ON IN FAIR WEATHER AND FOUL. IT STRIKES ME AS ENTIRELY FITTING THAT MY LAST MESSAGE AS AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG PERMITS ME TO REPORT ON AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING OF PERSONAL RAPPORT BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER THORN AND TO RECOMMEND THAT THE

ADMINISTRATION DEVELOP AND NUTURE THE TREMENDOUS
ASSET WHICH IS PRIME MINISTER THORN'S FRIENDSHIP FOR
THE UNITED STATES. PHILLIPS

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